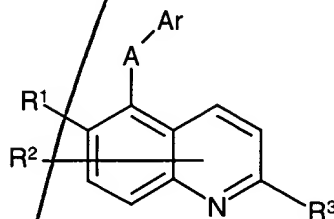


What is claimed is:

1. A compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula I:



wherein:

A is a -CH₂-, CH(OH)-, -C(O)-, C=NOR⁴, -NR⁵-, -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, or -S(O)₂-, where R⁴ is hydrogen or alkyl and R⁵ is hydrogen, alkyl, or acyl;

Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl;

R¹ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkoxy, alkenyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylalkyloxy, haloalkyloxy, hydroxyalkyloxy, alkoxyalkyloxy, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, cycloalkylthio, cycloalkylalkylthio, hydroxy, halo, cyano, -NR⁹R¹⁰, -CONR⁹R¹⁰, or -OSO₂R¹¹ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, and acyl; and R¹¹ is selected from alkyl, cycloalkyl, and haloalkyl;

R² is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halo, haloalkyl, heteroalkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, nitro, cyano, or -NR⁹R¹⁰ where R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from the respective group described for R⁹ and R¹⁰ previously; and R² represents substitution at any one of carbons C3, C4, C7 or C8.

R³ is -SR¹², -SOR¹², -SO₂R¹², or -SO₂NR¹³R¹⁴ wherein,

R¹² is alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, mono or dialkylaminoalkyl, carboxyalkyl, or alkoxycarbonylalkyl;

R¹³ is hydrogen or alkyl, and

R¹⁴ is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aminoalkyl, aryl, or aralkyl; or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with

See A1

the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloamino group;
and
prodrugs, individual isomers, mixtures of isomers, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5

2. A compound of Claim 1 wherein A is -S-.

3. A compound of Claim 2 wherein

R^1 is alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or cyano;

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl; and

R^3 is $S(O)_{0-2}R^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl.

10

4. A compound of Claim 3 wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl.

15 5. A compound of Claim 3 wherein Ar is 4-substituted phenyl or 2-substituted phenyl.

6. A compound of Claim 3 wherein Ar is a disubstituted phenyl.

20 7. A compound of Claim 3 wherein Ar is optionally substituted at one or more positions with a substituent or substituents independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, ethoxy, and methoxy.

8. A compound of Claim 1 wherein A is -C(O)-.

25 9. A compound of Claim 8 wherein

R^1 is alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or cyano;

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl; and

R^3 is $S(O)_{0-2}R^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl.

30 10. A compound of Claim 9 wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl.

11. A compound of Claim 9 wherein Ar is 4-substituted phenyl or 2-substituted phenyl.

12. A compound of Claim 9 wherein Ar is a disubstituted phenyl.

13. A compound of Claim 9 wherein Ar is optionally substituted at one or more positions with a substituent or substituents independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, ethoxy, and methoxy.

14. A compound of Claim 1 wherein A is $-\text{CH}_2-$.

15. A compound of Claim 14 wherein
 R^1 is alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or cyano;
 R^2 is hydrogen or methyl; and
 R^3 is $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl.

16. A compound of Claim 15 wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl.

17. A compound of Claim 15 wherein Ar is 4-substituted phenyl or 2-substituted phenyl.

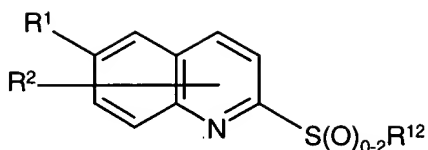
18. A compound of Claim 15 wherein Ar is a disubstituted phenyl.

19. A compound of Claim 15 wherein Ar is optionally substituted at one or more positions with a substituent or substituents independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, ethoxy, and methoxy.

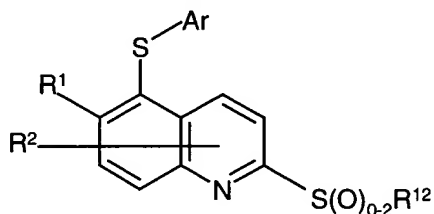
20. A compound of Claim 1 wherein A is $-\text{O}-$.

21. A compound of Claim 20 wherein
 R^1 is alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or cyano;
 R^2 is hydrogen or methyl; and
 R^3 is $\text{S}(\text{O})_{0-2}\text{R}^{12}$ where R^{12} is alkyl.

22. A compound of Claim 21 wherein Ar is unsubstituted phenyl.
23. A compound of Claim 21 wherein Ar is 4-substituted phenyl or 2-substituted phenyl.
- 5 24. A compound of Claim 21 wherein Ar is a disubstituted phenyl.
25. A compound of Claim 21 wherein Ar is optionally substituted at one or more positions with a substituent or substituents independently selected from the group consisting of
- 10 fluoro, chloro, bromo, ethoxy, and methoxy.
26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 15 27. A method of treatment of a disease in a mammal treatable by administration of a selective COX II inhibitor comprising administration to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.
28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the disease is an inflammatory disease selected from myositis, synovitis, arthritis (rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis), gout, back pain, dental pain, sports injuries, sprains, strains, headache, tendonitis, ankylosing, spondylitis, and bursitis.
- 20 29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the disease is dysmenorrhoea or premature labor.
- 25 30. The method of Claim 27 wherein the disease is Alzheimer's.
31. A process for preparing a compound selected from the group of compounds of Claim 1, which comprises
- 30 reacting a compound of general Formula



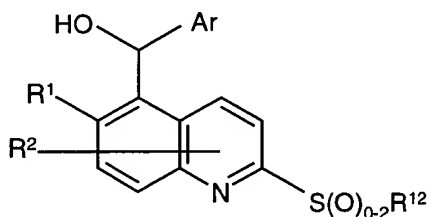
wherein R¹, R², and R¹² are as defined in Claim 1,
with a compound of general formula ArSH, to provide a compound of Formula I:



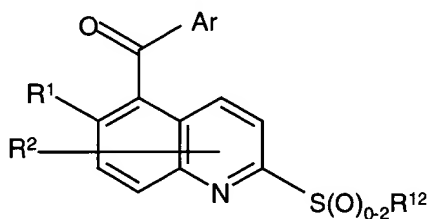
wherein Ar, R¹, R², and R¹² are as defined in Claim 1

32. A process for preparing a compound selected from the group of compounds of Claim 1,
which comprises

reacting a compound of general Formula



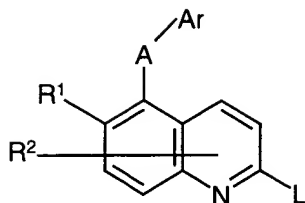
wherein R¹, R², and R¹², are as defined in Claim 1,
with an oxidizing agent to provide a compound of Formula I:



wherein Ar, R¹, R², and R¹² are as defined in Claim 1.

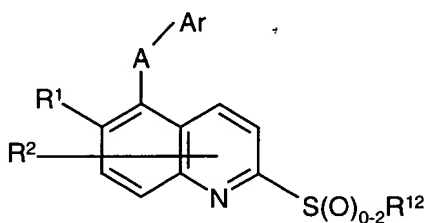
33. A process for preparing a compound selected from the group of compounds of Claim 1,
which comprises

reacting a compound of general formula



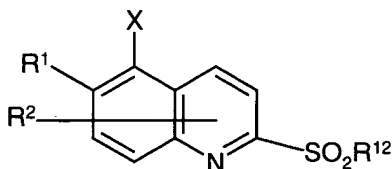
wherein A is $-NR^5$ or $-O$, and L is a leaving group such as a halogen group as defined in the specification,

with a compound of general formula $NaSR^{12}$, followed by optional oxidation to provide a compound of Formula I:



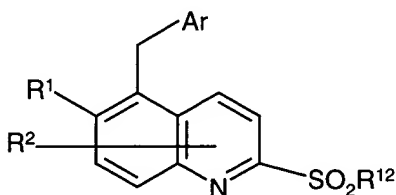
34. A process for preparing a compound selected from the group of compounds of Claim 1, which comprises

reacting a compound of general formula



wherein X is a halogen,

with an aralkyl anion compound to provide a compound of Formula I:



15

Handwritten signature